

### **Remarks**

This REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION is in reply to the Office Action mailed December 21, 2006. A Petition for Extension of Time is submitted herewith, together with the appropriate fee.

#### **I. Summary of Examiner's Rejections**

Prior to the Office Action mailed December 21, 2006, Claims 1-18 and 20-22 were pending in the Application. In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,161,149, hereafter Achacoso) in view of Balabanovic (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,826). Claims 2-10 and 12-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso in view of Balabanovic, and further in view of Ozzie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,241, hereafter Ozzie).

#### **II. Summary of Applicant's Amendment**

The present Response amends Claims 1-11, 14 and 21, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration Claims 1-18 and 20-22. Reconsideration of the Application, is respectfully requested.

#### **III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

In the Office Action mailed December 21, 2006, Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso (U.S. Patent No. 6,161,149) in view of Balabanovic (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,826).

Claims 2-10 and 12-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso in view of Balabanovic and further in view of Ozzie (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,241).

#### **Claim 1**

Claim 1 has been amended by the current Response to more clearly define the embodiment therein. As amended, Claim 1 defines:

1. *(Currently Amended) A collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners over multiple business protocols, comprising:
  - a central collaboration hub hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners;
  - a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner,
    - wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation, and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator; and
    - a messaging protocol that allows each business trading partners to use their local business protocol vocabulary to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information, wherein the business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space, and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business trading partner in a header of the messaging protocol.*

Claim 1, as currently amended, defines a collaboration hub capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between two or more business trading partners as part of a workflow between the trading partners. The system further comprises a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub. A business trading partner can select any one of the business protocols to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub, according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner. The business protocol the trading partner uses to communicate with the

collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator (URL) they select to communicate with the collaboration space.

The advantages of the embodiment currently defined by Claim 1 include that the collaboration hub allows each trading partner to select any one of several business protocol vocabularies supported by the collaboration hub, and to participate in a workflow with other business partners, while still using their own local business protocol vocabulary. For example, one trading partner may locally (at the trading partner's location) use a RosettaNet business protocol vocabulary to define its own workflows, while another trading partner may locally use an EDI business protocol. By providing a plurality of business protocol handlers, the system supports a workflow between trading partners that would otherwise utilize different business protocols. Furthermore, since each combination of collaboration space and business protocol is associated with a unique URL, the system of Claim 1 allows a single collaboration space to support multiple business protocols within a particular conversation, by providing a unique URL for each business protocol in that collaboration space.

Achacoso discloses a system and method for communicating information among members of a distributed discussion group having peripheral communication devices, and which includes communication between the peripheral communication devices and a central agent. (Abstract). As disclosed therein, the central agent receives and stores messages intended for at least one other group member. It creates a notice informing the at least one other group member that such a message exists and containing a channel (e.g., a hyperlink) directly to the memory location of the message. The at least one other group member may then elect to retrieve the message and may also elect to reply to the message. (Abstract).

Balabanovic discloses a method and apparatus for generating visual representations for audio documents. (Abstract). As disclosed therein, a multimedia chronicle is a particular type of audio narrative that includes a singular narration thread and one or more references to various types of electronic documents. Multiple sub-chronicles, each containing a singular narration thread, may be combined to form a larger multimedia chronicle. (Column 8, lines 16-23). Once a multimedia chronicle is created, user "A" may send the multimedia chronicle to another user via electronic mail. In one embodiment, in order to send the multimedia chronicle to another user, an XML representation of the multimedia chronicle is created. Once an XML representation of the

multimedia chronicle is created, a unique URL pointing to the XML representation is subsequently emailed to another user, say user "B". (Column 9, line 16 - Column 10, line 3).

Applicant respectfully submits that, in both Achacoso and Balabanovic, it appears that messages are sent via email, together with in some instances an embedded link to another file or message. However, both of the descriptions appear to suggest that the recipient of the email is a human operator, and that manual intervention by the human operator is required to retrieve the ultimate message.

Claim1 has been amended to more clearly define that the collaboration hub therein is capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between two or more business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation, wherein the workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between thebusiness trading partners. In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define that the system further comprises a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCp, or other business protocols. Claim 1 has also been amended to more clearly define that a business trading partner can select any one of the business protocols to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner, and that the business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the URL that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space.

In view of the above comments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, as currently amended, is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

#### **Claim 11**

The comments provided above with respect to Claim 1 are hereby incorporated by reference. Claim 11 has been similarly amended to more clearly define the embodiment therein. For similar reasons as provided above with respect to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 11, as amended, is likewise neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

#### **Claims 2-10, 12-18 and 20-22**

Claims 2-10, 12-18 and 20-22 are not addressed separately but it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim, and further in view of the amendments to the independent claims and the comments provided above. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 2-10, 12-18 and 20-22 are similarly neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for extending the time to respond up to and including June 21, 2007.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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